

PET OWNERS BEWARE



Under the wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) carries out 1080 fox and feral cat baiting operations on nearly 3.9 million hectares of land it manages. The program is working to bring native animals back from the brink of extinction by controlling introduced predators such as the European red fox and feral cat. As a result of baiting, two native mammal species (quenda and tammar wallaby) have been removed from the state's threatened species list since the start of *Western Shield*. In addition, populations of many more native animal species have increased or continue to persist in baited areas under *Western Shield*. Continuation of baiting will allow us to reintroduce species such as boodies, bilbies and numbats to areas of their former range. The baiting operations extend from Karratha in the north, through the forests of the south-west to areas east of Esperance.



1080 is poisonous to humans and will kill domestic cats and dogs.

Pet owners please be aware that all State forest and most national parks and nature reserves are baited four or more times a year and must be considered dangerous areas for pet dogs and cats at all times. Pets are not allowed in national parks. If visiting these conservation areas it is advised that you leave your pets at home.

Pet owners are also asked to remain vigilant in preventing pets from entering baited areas. 1080 sausage baits are made of meat and are extremely attractive to dogs in particular, who can detect the baits from many metres away. The baits will tempt both well-trained dogs and fussy eaters. If you suspect your pet has taken a bait, induce vomiting and immediately seek veterinary attention.

Neighbours, please be aware that it is legal for DEC or other neighbours to bait as close as five metres from your boundary and as close as 150 metres from your dwelling. Pets can travel these distances very quickly.

Public notices are placed in state and local newspapers and all baited areas are signposted—please observe 1080 warning signs. Maps of baited areas can be viewed on DEC's website at www.dec.wa.gov.au/westernshield.

For information please contact your local DEC office or visit www.dec.wa.gov.au.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

